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writers to himself—changes not only involving nomenclature and the rest of the machinery, but also profoundly affecting methods of study. It is too early to decide whether the modification was simply the inevitable swinging back of a pendulum that has reached its limit, or whether it was effected—at any rate, hastened—by Mr. Allen's instrumentality. In the latter event, and if the late revulsion proves to be, as it apparently is, a real reform, Mr. Allen's conspicuous connection with the progress of the science at that particular time is to be regarded as singularly fortunate.—E. C.

INTERMEMBRAL HOMOLOGIES.*—Since it is not reasonably possible to do justice to this remarkable paper within the limits to which we are confined on this occasion, we must be content to indicate its nature and scope. This restriction is perhaps the less to be regretted because, as some few of our readers may be aware, our own studies of the same subject have run too nearly parallel with Prof. Wilder's for us to have entirely escaped a bias of judgment unfavorable to impartial criticism; and because we would not even seem to seize an opportunity that the office of reviewer affords of arguing in favor of views that both the author and ourselves desire should be left to stand or fall upon their own merits. Searching criticism can only be expected from those who differ, not those who agree. We are satisfied of the soundness of Prof. Wilder's main views of the vertebrate homologies; and if we are at present unprepared to go with him as far as he has gone, this is chiefly because he appears to have pushed past a certain Rubicon that separates the safe logic of observation from the possibly fallible results of speculation. If we were urged to specify what we believe to be a misconception under which our learned friend labors, we should say it were this, as gathered from his collateral writings; that no mental abstraction, whether moral, æsthetic or purely intellectual, can be formed, unless a corresponding material embodiment exists; and that consequently conception of an idea implies that it has some real physical expression. But there is reason to believe in the existence of a class of ideas, conventionally designated as fanciful, to which this hypothesis has no proven application. One of the clearest and strongest points of the paper

* Intermembral Homologies: The Correspondence of the Anterior and Posterior Limbs of Vertebrates. By Burt G. Wilder, S. B., M. D., etc., Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H. xiv, p. 154, *et seq.*, 1872.

is that made on pp. 15 and 17, where, in the hope of closing "the first century of this [the homological] controversy by proposing a view embracing the best elements of both the two great parties, syntropists and antitropists," the author says: "it is probable therefore, that for a final solution of the problem we must combine the *visual* method of Huxley, as based on the facts of position in the embryo and lower animals, with the *intellectual* method of Wyman, as based upon a great law of organization."

The "historical sketch of the question" with which the article opens is a valuable contribution of the literature of the subject, meriting a more pretentious name, since it is a critical summary of most that has been done in this field—one than which few have been more harrowed with so little cultivation. The author continues with a revised nomenclature of parts and of ideas—a bold attempt to furnish some new tools of thought and sharpen others, the success of which can only be surmised, since this depends more upon acceptability than adaptability. Such words as *meros*, *talus* and *genu* strike one peculiarly, while such as *pseudantitropy* and *hyps syntropy* demand crystallization of the ideas they foreshadow to command general recognition. Much original evidence of the morphical insignificance of numerical composition is adduced in another portion of the treatise; while several general and special problems are presented for future research. May we not confidently look for their solution by an author who has proven himself an earnest, impartial and meritorious investigator? A chronological list of works bearing on the subject, invaluable for reference, closes an article of signal pertinence and acceptability, which becomes at once indispensable to students of philosophic anatomy, and which may not improbably be hereafter recorded as one marking an important period in the progress of that study.
— E. C.

REVISION OF THE ECHINI.*—This superbly printed and lavishly illustrated work is another of the series of Illustrated Catalogues issued by the Museum of Comparative Zoology. It is a general work on the living species of Echini, and from the evident care in its preparation, combining the results of the study of the types of most of those who have written on this order scattered through

* Illustrated Catalogue of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College. No. vii. Revision of the Echini. By Alexander Agassiz. Parts i-ii. With 49 plates. Royal 8vo. pp. 378.